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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00

SAM-01 /088 W
---------- 107061
R 301009Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1570
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0803

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, BC, SF, ZA, YS, TZ
SUBJECT: POLICY: POLITICO-ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: GABORONE 0537

1. SUBJECT TO VIEWS OF AMB WILKOWSKI, AND WHILE CLOSER EXAMINATION MAY SUGGEST ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS, WISH ENDORSE AMB BOLEN'S FORWARD-LOOKING PROPOSAL FOR STUDY OF INSTITUTIONALIZED REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG MAJORITY-RULED STATES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TO ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEFUL CHANGE IN AREA. SOUTHERN AFRICAN
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SCENE LIKELY TO BE IN STATE OF FLUX FOR QUITE A LONG TIME

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AND REGIONAL EFFORT ENVISIONED, WHILE DIFFICULT IN SUCH
CIRXUMSTANCES, MIGHT HELP IN SOME WAYS TO GIVE A MODICUM
OF DIRECTION AND ORDER TO EVENTS.

2. IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, COUNTRIES OF REGION
WILL SURELY SOON GIVE THOUGHT TO FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS WITH
NEIGHBORS NOW THAT MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA BECOMING INDEPENDENT
AND THERE ARE SOME PROSPECTS FOR RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT AND
PERHAPS FOR PROGRESS IN NAMIBIA. DOING OUR HOMEWORK
THOROUGHLY NOW SHOULD HELP US UNDERSTAND DEVELOPMENTS MORE
CLEARLY AND POSSIBLY INFLUENCE THEM IN SOME DEGREE.

3. ACHIEVEMENT OF SOME FORM OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION
HAS OBVIOUS VIRTUES IN AND OF ITSELF, BUT ITS POSSIBLE EFFECT
ON SOUTH AFRICA AND LONG-TERM POLITICAL EVOLUTION IN REGION AS
WHOLE, AS SUGGESTED BY AMB BOLEN, NATURALLY LENDS IT GREATER
POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE, ESPECIALLY IF THE MORE MODERATE,
CONCILIATORY ATTITUDES PREDOMINATE. IN TIME, THERE COULD ALSO BE
SALUTARY SPILLOVER FROM SUCH A GROUPING IN COUNCILS OF OAU.

4. ONE CAN, OF COURSE, ANTICIPATE AT THE OUTSET SOME
COMPLICATIONS REQUIRING ACCOMMODATION--E.G., IN
ZAMBIA'S CASE, A CERTAIN IDEOLOGICAL KINSHIP WITH TANZANIA;
AN ASSOCIATED TENDENCY TO THINK IN TERMS OF REGIONAL COALESCENCE
BASED ON ZAMBIA, TANZANIA, MOZAMBIQUE (AND EVENTUALLY
ZIMBABWE); AND THE DESIRE RESULTING FROM THE INTEGRATED
TRANSPORT LINKS WHICH ALREADY EXIST--A DESIRE STRENGTHENED
BY RECENT EXPERIENCE--TO AVOID ALIGNMENTS AND COMMITMENTS
WHICH MIGHT IN SOME MEASURE UNDERMINE KEEPING OPEN AND IN
USE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO THE SEA THROUGH TANZANIA, ZAIRE
(AND ANGOLA), AND MALAWI (AND MOZAMBIQE).

5. RELEVANT ARE REMARKS MADE TO US JUST YESTERDAY APRIL 28
BY MIN STATES FOR FON AFFS SILWIZYA ON DESIRABILITY OF PSWITICAL
AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG STATES LISTED IN AMB BOLEN'S
PROPOSAL BUT EXTENDED TO INCLUDE TANZANIA AND MALAWI AS WELL.
HE ALSO NOTED CONTINUED ZAMBIAN INTEREST IN EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY, IF THAT INSTITUTION CAN BE REVIVED.

6. DESPITE COMPLICATIONS AND FACT THAT TODAY'S SOUTHERN
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AFRICA IS VERY MUCH IN FLUID STATE, IT SEEMS TO US TAKING
THE LONG VIEW NOW AND ACTING ON IT IS SENSIBLE ON BOTH
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL GROUNDS.
NELSON

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NNN

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